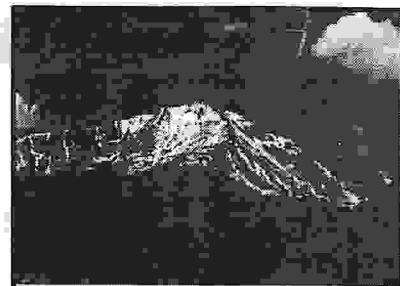




Ø-Beat



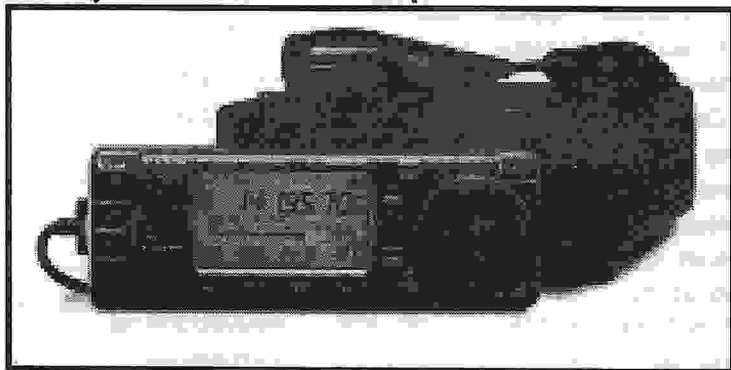
Vol. 51

July 2001

No. 7

Hamfest a Hit!

And the winners are ... The \$100 cash prize was won by our very own **NØNKP Ken Phillips**. The Icom IC-706



was won by **KØKHE, T. Stratton, of Parker, CO**. This is the first time in recent memory where we actually sold all of our printed raffle tickets! We cut back a bit since last year when we ordered a bit too many. This year we ordered about 3,000 tickets. Some were sold as admission tickets or with tables, the rest were raffle tickets. At an initial glance, it appears that we definitely made money this year. Probably at least as much, maybe a little more, than last year. The final figures are not in just yet. But preliminary figures from Ron show that we made a little more than we did last year - just over about \$1,300.

Our excellent turnout was a direct result of the tremendous help received from the many hams that sold tickets, set up tables, collected admissions, and did all the pre-planning. If there was an award for going above and beyond the call of duty, we'd have to give it to the following people: Bob Ryals KIØGF for overall coordination; Ginger Hipszky NØUOD for her outstanding collection of door prizes and work on publicity, Kate Ellis KCØEGJ for her fantastic job on selling the raffle tickets, and David Ellis KCØJZU who also pushed for those final ticket sales by walking from table to table selling bunches of extra raffle tickets!

There were many other hams that helped out with the setup and operations. Here's a list of helpers. If we've left anyone out, please let us know and we'll note the

correction in the next Ø-Beat. **Raffle ticket takers:**

KCØHCS Ed Rutledge, KBØB Bob Wogaman, KBØVWG Mike Bourne, NØPRY Skee Hipszky, NØUOD Ginger Hipszky, ADØA Jerry VerDuft, KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, KCØEGJ Kate Ellis, KCØJZU David Ellis, KAØROZ Jodi Borst, KCØNC Les Borst, KDØJU Bill Pierce, KØHBZ Wes Wilson (on the printer), and WBØRTF Moe Pierce as our MC.

Admission ticket takers: N7LV Rob Roller, NØJLH Jeff Boyes, KAØROY Renay Boyes, KCØNC Les Borst, KAØROZ Jodi Borst, KBØB Bob Wogaman, KCØJZU David Ellis.

Table haulers: KBØREI Carlos Caro, NØABC Dennis Major, N7LV Rob Roller, WV7T Mike Anderson, KDØJU Bill Pierce, KIØGF Bob Ryals, NKØP Ron Deutsch, KØHBZ Wes Wilson, KCØNC Les Borst, KAØROZ Jodi Borst, NØJLH Jeff Boyes, KAØROY Renay Boyes, NØQJS John Roth, NØNTX Tom McDaniel, KCØHCS Ed Rutledge, KØSU Rick Brown, KIØRA Vern Sallie, Roger Foust KE6ZOT, John KCØJHF, John Chickaul KGØMC, Roger Eslick NØVR, KBØLNE Dave Vogel, KE6YAG and KE6WUW George and Nancy Murphy.

Talk-in: NØCYR Jake Jacobs, WØMCT Doc Cornell. **Medical support:** NØPRY Skee Hipszky and KØRI Larry Lewis. Special thanks to Bill Pierce KDØJU for taking time out to walk around handicapped hams Kevin Shields KBØWFM and Hyrum Webb KBØWKL so they could get a feel for the hamfest and buy stuff. Many thanks to all that helped!

There were some good programs too! We had Walt Stinson WØCP talked about ARRL League happenings, mostly regarding some of the issues surrounding the international CW requirements, the ARRL's role in the IARU and the ITU, and how it is becoming really the only advocate for amateur radio, representing the entire population of hams, with about 1/4 of them paid ARRL members. We also had a good satellite program by our own Tom McDaniel NØNTX, who also happens to be one of the Colorado area AMSAT coordinators.

July Program is on Colorado Weather, by Paul Kavanaugh from KKTV-11

Meetings Our monthly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N. Circle Drive, about 1/2 way between Platte Ave and Constitution Ave on N. Circle. Our Annual meeting is in October. Check the web site for any changes.

Regular License Exam Sessions

PPRAA ARRL test sessions on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 0900 at the Denver Technical College, 3245 International Cr, across from Memorial Park. Contact Erik KGØXE for details. Examinees need to bring (1) \$10, preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VE; (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

PPRAA Web Page See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>. Thanks to Rick Brown KØSU, our webmaster and reflector maintainer.

Get on the PPRAA E-mail

Reflector Stay on top of new or short-fused developments. Send e-mail to majordomo@qth.net; within the body type "subscribe ppraanet".

PPRAA Simplex Net All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

Officers and Directors

*President	Sid White	K4ARM	495-4147	k4arm@arrl.net
*Vice-President	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
Secretary	Mike Allen	NØMIK	594-4896	n0mik@arrl.net
Treasurer	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352	deutschrd@aol.com
*Board Member	Rhoda Anderson	KB2BZY	634-7168	wv7t@aol.com
Board Member	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA	634-8066	verduftj@earthlink.net
Board Member	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX	570-1465	n0ntx@amsat.org
*Board Member & Ø-Beat Editor	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@amsat.org
Past President	Mike Anderson	WV7T	634-7168	wv7t@aol.com

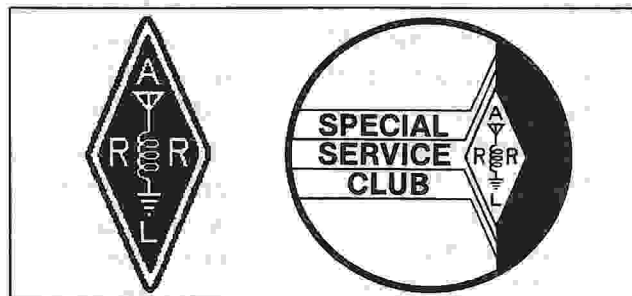
* Indicates this Director is completing the second year of a two-year term

Committee Chairs & Other Contacts

Activity	(vacant -- volunteer desperately needed !!!)			
Auditing	(vacant -- volunteer desperately needed !!!)			
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
Historian	Roger Eslick	NØVR	272-9036	reslick@qwest.net
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439	william.petty@lsil.com
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995	kc0nc@aol.com
Programs	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
Publicity	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
Hamfest	Bob "Rails" Ryals	KIØGF	265-9950	rryals@pcisys.net
Technical Education	Linda Hedges	KBØRKW	683-7828	kb0rkw@juno.com
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE	278-4363	erik@teuton.org
Ø-Beat	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@amsat.org
AMSAT Coordinator	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX	570-1465	n0ntx@amsat.org
ARES EC	Wes Wilson	KØHBZ	687-8758	wlw@prodigy.net
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
CCARC Liaison	Moe Pierce	WBØRTF	550-0406	wb0rtf@amsat.org
RACES Officer	Tony Dal Lago	KC4VMB	575-8400	kc4vmb@qsl.net

Upcoming Club Programs

July.....	Paul Kavanaugh, TV Ch 11 WX anchorman, will talk about Colorado weather.
Aug.....	Mike Manes W5VSI will talk about the Edge of Space Sciences (EOSS)



Articles for the Ø-Beat Deadline for articles or ads for the August issue is Jul 23. Submit articles by e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person to the editor. Editor reserves right to correct for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length.

Nonprofit Organization The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions/ donations may be tax-deductible.

Ø-Beat Available Electronically in PDF form via e-mail. Contact the editor for details.

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc, P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521. Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and the Ø-Beat. For membership and subscriptions see the back inside cover of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page \$48; Half page \$24; Quarter page \$12; Business card \$6. Rates are billed quarterly. Send advertisements and payments to Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc, P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521.

Club and Local News

How was Field Day?

Field Day hasn't happened yet, as of printing day. But we'll have a complete report in *Ø-Beat* next month. If you take any photographs of Field Day, please send me some good ones. Also send some to Rick Brown for the web page.

List of Prizes Donated to Hamfest *de NØUD Ginger Hipszky*

- Turbo Taqueria: Two \$10 gift certificates
- Cascabel's Cantina & Grill: Two free lunch items, drink, and sopapilla's
- Gazette: History in the Making (book)
- Sam's Club (south): \$25 gift card
- OEM Parts: Two \$100 gift certificates
- SkySox: Two 2-boxseats certificates
- Balloon Classic: Two gift baskets (One for \$130; one for \$50)
- McKenzie-White Booksellers: \$10 gift certificate
- KCME: Two coffee mugs
- Championship Golf & Games: Eight free mini-golf games
- Wal-Mart: \$50 in merchandise (mostly car emergency items)
- Cave of the Winds: Five free Discovery Tour coupons
- Centennial Electronics: 2001 ARRL Handbook, Radio Operator's Guide
- PC Brokers: Two sets of computer stereo speakers
- Joanie Ver Duft: Four discount coupons for various hair styling procedures
- Zugspitze: \$20 gift certificate (new store on Delmonico)
- HRO: MFJ-1724B (antenna), MFJ-1722, basic electronics book, 2001 ARRL Handbook, World Atlas, 2001 Southwest Frequency/Program Directory, two Repeater Directory's
- ARRL: 2001 ARRL Handbook and 2 other books

[Ed: I have to add that Ginger did an outstanding job in gathering prizes this year. She's learned well from Rosie WAØMNL, who had been our primary prize gatherer-upper in past years. Rosie taught her well! Thanks, Ginger!]

Annual Picnic Scheduled *de KØSU Rick Brown*

This year's annual picnic will be on August 12 at the USAFA, picnic area #2. Who would like to head-up this fun event? The board needs a little help with this one! Please contact me as soon as possible.

While we on the subject of parties, we also need someone to start the planning for the annual Christmas party again. Any volunteers? Now is the best time!

Next Section Manager Named *de N7LV Rob Roller*

As of June 14, 2001, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has announced that Jeff Ryan NØWPA of Colorado Springs has been elected Section Manager for the Colorado Section of the ARRL. He succeeds Tim Armagost, WBØTUB of Littleton. His two-year term of office will begin October 1, 2001.

Okay, that was the official announcement. Now for some background about Jeff. In the time that Jeff has been a ham (since 1994, I believe, but I'm not positive on that), he's managed to become active in many aspects of ham radio. I can remember him becoming an assistant EC in ARES, then succeeding Mike Stansberry KØTER as Emergency Coordinator a number of years ago. Since then, he's also served on the board of directors for the PPRAA (along with his wife Gloria NØZFX). Currently Jeff holds an extra class license, and is the chairman of the PPFMA (in his second term). He's also the assistant Section Manager, under Tim Armagost, for several years as well. Jeff's been active in many different operating modes of ham radio as well. Of course, 2m was probably first, followed by 2m SSB, HF, packet radio, amateur television, and now 1.2 GHz. Jeff has been operating a packet radio bulletin board system for many years now. His BBS has been used for forwarding many messages to and from all points around the globe. He's also been active in both ARES and RACES over the years. Jeff's been known to frequent many a hamfest around the state. I'm sure there's much more I could say, but I'd definitely run out of room. Personally I think he'll do well as Section Manager. So, next time you bump into him (like at Field Day, maybe?), give him a pat on his back and wish him well in his new position!

Historian Position Filled *de N7LV Rob Roller*

Last month it was mentioned that Roger Eslick NØVR is our new Historian. I failed to acknowledge that **Jody Borst KAØROZ** had been our historian for several years before, though. Thanks to Jody for all the work she did in getting together the historical artifacts, the historical submissions to the *Ø-Beat*, and in continuing on the membership biography notebook.

Public Service & Emergency Communications

The PPRAA is an ARRL Special Services Club, but it is not an emergency services club itself. The PPRAA supports all amateur radio involvement in public service and emergency communications in any way it can, including reporting activities happening in the region. These columns are based on available knowledge, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of RACES, ARES, Skywarn or any other organization, or their leadership. Logos used with permission.

RACES



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on 147.345/448.1 MHz
CMRG repeater

Tony Dal Lago KC4VMB, RACES Officer

RACES members assisted with the **Ellicott tornado** aftermath by filling at the command center at the Ellicott Volunteer Fire Department to relieve the overworked normal staff. Also enjoyed an informative training session by the Red Cross on disaster assessment. If it wasn't such a terrible thing to happen, it could be said that we were fortunate to have the Ellicott tornado as a real-life example for the damage assessment training. The CAP exercise has been postponed until Sept. The EPC Fair is the end of July; need a few RACES folks to staff the display. Other upcoming training: **July:** Net Control Station training; **August:** GPS/Map training; **September:** Mobile HF training.

ARES



<http://www.qsl.net/ppares/>

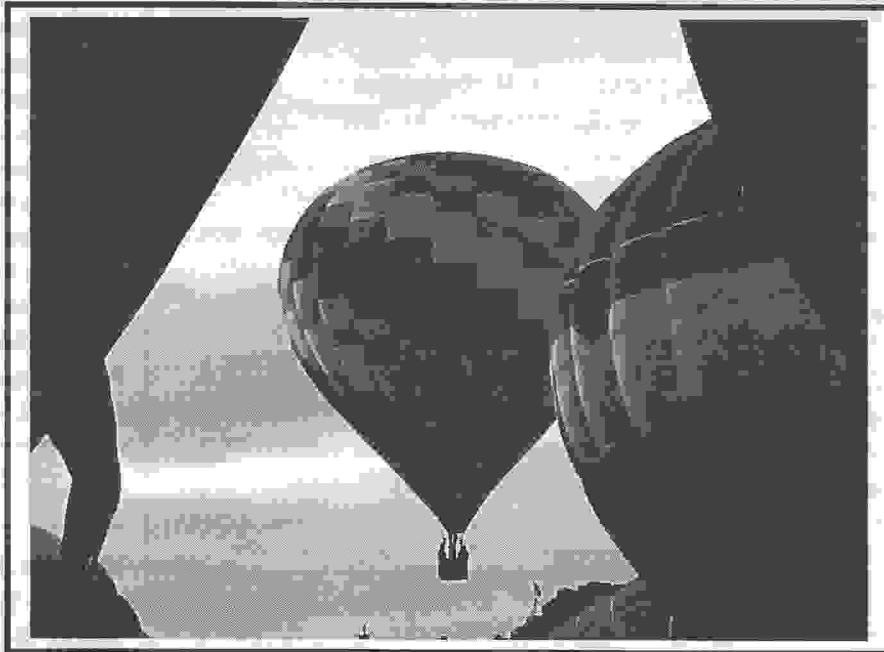
VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on 146.97 MHz
PPFMA repeater

Wes Wilson KØHBZ, Emergency Coordinator

Still need somebody with flexible schedule and strong WX interest to assume the **AEC Weather Operations position**. See Wes KØHBZ if you're interested in taking over this position. WX is getting very busy - many thunderstorms and hail reports. Remember to keep reports to severe info only - hold on to those blue-sky reports! Not many other specific things to report on. Hope everyone made it to Field Day, which is really all about emergency communications. Come and listen, look, learn, and operate! Check the calendar for the abundant public service events coming up.

Colorado Springs Balloon Classic Coming!

The dates for this year's Balloon Classic are Sept 1st thru 3rd. The event will be held at Memorial Park, as in years past. This year will be a lot of fun, as it's the 25th anniversary. There are a lot of planned activities for the public and more contests. The event boasts the launch of over 100 balloons on each morning, a beautiful sight against the blue sky and mountains. On Saturday and Sunday evening most of the balloons inflate on the launch field and use their burners to make the balloons glow, another amazing sight. Of course, each of these events brings thousands of people to the park. With such a large gathering of the public, there must be medical people and law enforcement present. We are there to assist with communications for El Paso County Search and Rescue.



There are normally 15 to 20 hams spread out over the launch field in strategic locations to be able to report any medical emergencies or other problems in the crowd. We run a directed net, which helps to keep things organized. This also helps us get information to SAR very quickly. Our capacity as Amateur Operators has been a great help to SAR and Patsy Buchwald, Director of the Classic. Also this is an excellent opportunity for new hams to learn good communicating skills.

The morning events require us to arrive at the park no later than 5:45 am. We're usually finished with our duties by 9 am. For the evening "glows" we meet by 5 pm, and are done around 9 pm. I'll send out the plan for this event in August via e-mail; if you'd like it sooner let me know. This plan will explain our duties at the event. I have asked KØHBZ if parts of the plan could be read over one of the Tuesday night PPARES nets; hopefully August 28. I hope to see a lot of you sign up for this fun event. Please contact me (NØUOD) to volunteer! ghipszky@usa.net, or 528-8361.

Colorado Springs EMWIN Node Resumes Operation

The PPARES Colorado Springs packet EMWIN Weather System is back on-line as of 2 Jun. (I had to replace the old computer with a newer Pentium).

To obtain the latest weather bulletin released by the Pueblo NWS - set your packet rig to 144.93 MHz and initiate a connect to "EMWX14". You can also connect to the PPARES Packet Cluster at "WAØVTU". NOTE: The EMWX14 BBS will contain additional weather bulletins that do not need to be transferred to the ARES Cluster.

For you Mid-Day Weather Net controllers, the Significant Weather Outlook and the latest hourly readings are also available at EMWX14. As a general rule - hourly city readings don't get released or posted until 15-20 minutes after the hour. Accessing bulletins via EMWIN Packet will probably be a little faster than the Internet since reception is directly from GOES8 to packet. When NOAA radio sounds an alert for Teller or El Paso county, give the EMWX14 Packet BBS 30 - 55 seconds to automatically process the text release of the immediate weather bulletin.

On a final note - Teller County also has an EMWIN-to-packet connection managed by KAØPII. Connect to "MARC-1" on 144.93 if you're in that area. If you are looking for other bulletins (solar, earthquakes, etc... let me know and will activate the transfer of the bulletins. 73 de Doug N4TGO

Club to Continue with CCARC Membership

One question that recently arose is should the PPRAA, being a member of the CCARC, but not being a repeater organization, continue to remain a member of the CCARC? The club voted to continue to remain a part of the CCARC at the June meeting.

The CCARC, or the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, was formed many moons ago (their birth year doesn't seem to appear on their web page) for the purpose of coordinating amateur radio club activities in the State of Colorado. This includes engaging in these activities, as a minimum: education, legislation, research and experimentation, public relations, sponsor or assist member clubs in sponsoring conventions, swapfests or related events, projects beyond the scope or capabilities of member clubs. and acting as the single point of contact in matters involving frequency coordination for individuals, clubs and organizations that own and/or operate communications repeaters, repeater links, and control channels.

Part of the reason the question came up in the first place was due to the fact that even though the CCARC

says they coordinate the activities of amateur radio clubs, they put 99% of all of their efforts on repeater coordination within Colorado. Since the PPRAA doesn't operate a repeater, some wondered why we're still supporting the CCARC.

Repeater coordination isn't a bad thing, in fact it's a good thing. Considering that nearly all of the PPRAA membership uses repeaters at one time or another, and there are at least a dozen or two repeaters in the Colorado Springs area alone, coordination is very important. So, in the interest of keeping our repeaters coordinated throughout the state, the club decided it was in our best interests to continue to support the CCARC.

The PPRAA is one of nearly 40 organizations which form the CCARC.

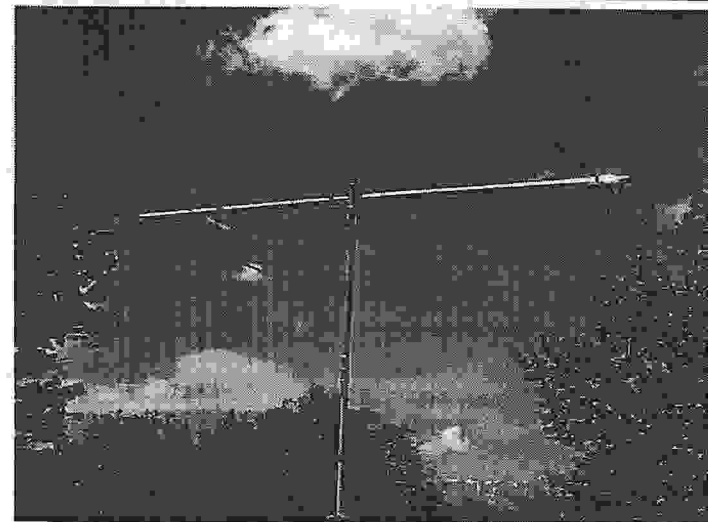
You can read more about the CCARC, and a lot about the frequency coordination process, at their web site: <http://www.ccarc.net> Another nice feature on their web page is a listing of all the repeaters in Colorado. This can be very useful if you travel around the state quite often.

Articles & Tech Talk

10 Meters to 6 Meters

de WV7T Mike Anderson

What do you do when you want a 6 meter beam? Why you use a 10 meter beam instead!



A new look at WV7T. The picture shows a 3-element Cushcraft 10 meter beam modified to a 4-element 6 meter beam. The antenna works so well when pointed at the house the RF overload gets into several entertainment devices (of the XYL's), but when pointed away from the house the signal is unnoticeable. Wonderful front-to-back ratio. Stations in NC and CA were worked with this

antenna. This 6-meter beam was a Cushcraft 10 meter beam in a previous life. Part of the 10 meter beam boom was removed, and some elements were trimmed down and reassembled to the boom to match the specifications of the 6 meter beam.

Contest Challenged

de WV7T Mike Anderson

It's been difficult to find time for HF operating in the past year or so. Seems other projects sneak up on me and demand their time and tend to have a higher priority than my hamming. A thought came to me that I could compress my operating into contest weekends. I dislike contesting alone so I badgered poor old John Roth NØQJS to be my sidekick and help me in the contests. So we started out the 2000 CW-SSB Sweepstakes of which we took First Place (Colorado) in the CW Sweepstakes Multi-op category. The other contest results have not been distributed. By the way, the CW contests (Sweepstakes and DX) were all done at 3.9 watts and all 6 continents were worked in 2 hours for WAC-QRP. The picture shows the 4 contest Participation Pins we qualified for. The station consisted of a IC-706MK II, a 3 band HF beam elevated 11 feet above ground, and a KAM PLUS (for RTTY). We had such a good time we plan to do it again this next fall.

Anyone like to join us for a possible PPRAA contest effort?

Cool QSL?

de N7LV Rob Roller

Never did get too much of a response on the idea of posting an interesting QSL card each month. The idea was for you to either scan in a QSL card you've received, or get it to me and I'll scan it in, and I'd print it here in the Ø-Beat to show it off. If you have such a card, please let me know.



Mike WV7T and John NØQJS qualified for these four pins during some recent sweepstakes constests.

Lightning Protection

de N7LV Rob Roller

Lightning is a pretty scary phenomenon to some of us. My daughter didn't like it when she was very young. My dog heads for cover at the first sound of a thunder-boomer. Obviously little kids and dogs don't understand lightning. But do us grown-ups really understand it any better? Just what is lightning, and why are we as hams so concerned that it's going to destroy our equipment? Some of us have had the unfortunate happen to us. Lightning discovered an antenna, and proceeded to burn out the electronics at the other end of the cable.

But let's think about this for a second or two. Here we are, amateur radio operators. We all will agree that we have spent a considerable amount of money on our equipment and don't want our equipment to get fried in a microsecond. So, we'll run for cover when thunderstorms loom, unhook our coax, hide our radios from the sight of those ominous clouds. Then we proceed to turn on our weakest piece of equipment, an HT, and feebly attempt to check in to ... the severe weather net! We use an HT from the basement (where we can't be heard by the repeater). Sound a little inconsistent? Two things: here we are hiding our radios from the storm, yet the severe weather spotters need those radios to participate in the net. Also, here we are hiding our radios, yet we rely on other radios

which are in much more *EXTREME* lightning danger than we're in, sitting atop some of the tallest mountain peaks around. What gives? Why are we so afraid of losing our equipment, but repeater operators (and actually, hundreds of other commercial and public safety equipment operators) continue to operate like nothing's going on? What do they know that we don't? Or maybe they just have a bigger insurance policy than we do.

Well, they probably do have a bigger insurance policy, but they also are taking more steps than we are to protect their equipment. On the other hand, commercial and public safety radios are usually a bigger investment than our little ham radios.

But is there something that we can do? I don't know yet. (That sounds ridiculous, huh? I don't know that much about lightning protection yet. I've found the best way to learn about something is to write an article on it. So here I go. You'll learn as I do. I'm not going to get very far in this first installment.)

We're already well into the severe weather season in Colorado, so this article may be coming a little late. Actually, I think it's coming about a year early. You've got a year from now to get ready for the 2002 severe weather season.

What is lightning?

Lightning is simply a very high current electrical discharge in the atmosphere. If we're talking current, a typical lightning strike will pass 10 kilo amperes (kA) to 40kA, with some really strong strikes passing over 150kA, for about 1/4 to 1/2 second. In terms of energy, a lightning strike could have 1 to 10 megajoules of energy.

Sounds pretty destructive? Most of our antennas are built to handle up to about 1,000 joules per second (watts). Our little J-poles might handle 100 watts if we're lucky. Imagine a lightning bolt shoving a megajoule in a 1/2 second down that antenna. That's what, about 2 megawatts?

Okay, like I said, I don't know much about this topic yet. Besides I ran out of room. Especially with that neat picture filling up space. So now I've got a month to get prepared for the next issue, when I'll start talking about what we can do to protect our equipment from this monster.



A bolt of lightning lights up the night skyline in Reno NV.
Whose antenna got clobbered in this strike?

(Photo by N7LV)

Radio Explorers de KBØPPM Dan Scott

Explorer Scouting is a subdivision of the Boy Scouts of America that is charted to provide a means for a co-ed group of 14 through 20 year olds to work together exploring a career. If you think about it, PPRAA is a group of people, which meet to explore the advancement of RF communication at the amateur level. We have formed a set of by-laws and other such interesting things (I think to give us a meeting topic at least once a year). We elect officers to run the meetings in a democratic method (vs the republic method we use for government).

Explorer Scouts are almost exactly the same with the exception of an organization which provides advisors who may be required to approve actions of the Explorer Post. An Explorer Post elects its officers, sets its own by-laws which the sponsoring organization must approve.

If the PPRAA is to sponsor an Explorer Post, then we need people to volunteer helping build this organization. The advisors are the more visible people and work directly with the Explorers. The larger the group of advisors, the easier it is to be one. To complement the advisors it's always nice to have groups of people helping Explorers facilitate getting meeting locations, speakers, and hands-on activities. You may asking, "What would radio Explorers do?" The answer is easy: "any radio related activity they come up with."

So they could work with emergency groups, work with repeater groups, get others interested in amateur radio, build kits, build from scratch, do contests, help at events ... whatever. It's not uncommon for Explorers to put up their own ham shack, put up repeaters, and do expeditions.

As you can guess, being an explorer can be very exciting as youth member or an adult. If you are interested in helping, organizing, or being an advisor or facilitator behind the scenes, please contact me via e-mail (kb0ppm@arrl.net) if possible, or via phone at 635-0871 or Fax at 633-9036.

Colorado Connection News de WBØQMR Paul Shackelford

(06/04/01) Summer is finally coming to the high country. The snow is melting off of the roads to our repeater sites and we'll access this week or next to most sites. Currently we have had a rash of sick repeaters to fix and we will be getting to them very soon now. The main problems are with Salida (not working at all), Rifle (very intermittent linking but working locally), Grand Junction (working locally but not linking back to the system), Glenwood Springs (not linking), and Kremling (possible power problem may be fixed this week).

As you can see our tech crew has much work to get done. Add to these problems the move of the Colorado Springs repeater and we are somewhat overwhelmed for the next 4 or so short months that we have access to these sites. If anyone out there is able to lend any technical help to the crew it sure would be appreciated. You can contact our head of the Tech. committee (John Thomson N5EHP) via e-mail at n5ehp@colcon.org or call him at 800-444-9476 during business hours at H.R.O. If you are not a technician your help is also useful at the repeater site as a driver (4 wheel drive required) or tower climber or just tool fetcher.

The Connection is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization and could not be where it is or grow without your help. So please do what you can to help us get going this year. For more up to date information on what repeaters are up or down and what trips are planned to repeater sites check into our Thursday night net at 8:00pm local time. Information and repeater status may also be found at our web site of www.colcon.org. This information may not be as current as that found on the Thursday night net. This past week end we had the pleasure of supplying our facilities to the folks working with the Elephant Rock Bike race. Events like this one are for charity and are a good use as well as a good test of our system. Please have some patience with those working these events. They are on the system with the full permission of The Colorado Connection Board Of Directors.

Have a great Summer! 73 de The Colorado Connection

Club Business

General Meeting Minutes

de NØMIK Mike Allen, Secretary

The June 13th meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Forty members and guests were in attendance. After introductions of new members and guests, Ron NKØP gave the treasurer's report, which included figures from Swapfest. Bob KIØGF presented a summary of Swapfest, giving special recognition to Kate KCØEGJ and Ginger NØUOD for their extraordinary support. Ron NKØP raised the question of how the club should use the Swapfest and Raffle money, noting that money taken in from the raffle can be used for public service related projects. Reviewing old business, Moe WBØRTF talked about the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC), of which the PPRAA was a founding member. The major activity of the CCARC is the coordination of repeaters in Colorado, and the question before the membership was whether to continue membership or not. After lengthy discussions, Wes KØHBZ made a motion to continue membership citing the benefit of having an organization that would look after state interests. Al NØCMW seconded the motion and it passed with one dissenting vote. Announcements began with Moe WBØRTF mentioning the Lunch Bunch meeting on June 15 at Hometown Buffet. Mike WV7T mentioned club members Russ KBØFNM and Rosie WAØMNL, Mike NØMUD, and Sid K4ARM who have not been well recently, and asked that members who felt so inclined give them a call. He also noted that he will begin tutoring committed students in the fall for whatever upgrade they are interested in, and that the ARRL had a special membership rate through June. Les KCØNC announced that the club roster would be included in the July edition of the *Ø-Beat*, and that he had included a notice in the monthly e-mail about membership dues. Luci NØOUD mentioned the Starlight Spectacular and the MS-150; two bike ride public service events that ARES is supporting. Just before the break, a cake was presented to Mike KØTER for his birthday. Happy Birthday Mike! After the break and the door prize drawing, Mike talked about Field Day, introducing the various station and activity coordinators. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Submitted by Mike Allen NØMIK, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

de NØMIK Mike Allen, Secretary

[The location for the July board meeting is at N7LV's place. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to 282-0204.]

The June 18, 2001 PPRAA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Sid White K4ARM at the Springs City Church. Board members in attendance were Rick KØSU, Mike NØMIK, Tom NØNTX, Mike WV7T, Rhoda KB2BZY, Rob N7LV, Jerry ADØA, and Ron NKØP. Moe WBØRTF, Bill KDØJU, Roger KE6ZOT, Jaclyn KCØJTP, and the pastor of the church, Steve Pearson, were also present. The meeting was held at the church to allow the board members an opportunity to look at the facilities being offered as a potential club station site and ask questions of Steve. Rob N7LV suggested that at least one board member check into the PPFMA net each Sunday evening to announce the next club meeting and answer questions. He presented a draft schedule of dates each board member might check in, noting that each member would only have to do it once every 9 weeks or so. He also noted that El Pomar has meeting rooms available and suggested we might use them for special events next year. He mentioned the service that QSL.NET provides and made a motion to donate \$25 dollars to them. It was seconded by Rick KØSU and passed unanimously. Rick KØSU announced that reservations had been made at picnic area #2 on the Air Force Academy for the club picnic on August 12th. Rob made a motion that we allocate up to \$125 for food. Second was by Rick KØSU and the motion passed unanimously. Taking advantage of already being together, the Board of Directors will hold their monthly meeting at the picnic. Rick also mentioned that Don Dubon would present a show in September of his DXpedition in the Caribbean. Jerry ADØA noted that 5 out of 10 students had finished his code class and that he will begin another class around October. Mike NØMIK mentioned he had drafted a letter for Sid's signature to the Post Office noting who was authorized to hold a club PO box key. It had not arrived at Sid's as of the meeting, and Mike would look into it. Ron NKØP presented a report on Swapfest, noting there were 86 paid tables and a net profit of about \$1300. He also said it was again time to donate \$100 to the church for the use of their meeting room and presented a motion to do that. Mike NØMIK seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ron also noted he would draft the \$25 check to the CCARC for continued membership per the vote of the club at the June meeting. Tom NØNTX announced he had Field Day shirts and pins for those who ordered them. Rhoda KB2BZY said she'd bring the coffee and pots to Field Day. Moe WBØRTF said she and Bill KDØJU had brought two membership renewals with them. Sid K4ARM said the Hammy would go to the Swapfest committee at the next meeting. He also noted that Kate

KCØEGJ would like to be on the audit committee again. The board then toured the building to survey the proposed club station site and talk with Steve about the arrangements. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM
Submitted by Mike Allen NØMIK, Secretary

Treasurer's Report de NKØP Ron Deutsch, Treasurer

If your membership expires in Jul, pay:

Full: \$6.25 Family: \$7.50 Associate: \$5.00

Senior: \$4.17 Sr Family: \$5.00

to extend until Dec 2001

New or renewals received after Jan 2001 must be prorated to end on December 31. See the treasurer for details.

For the month of May 2001, income was \$80, expenses were \$787. Balance in checking is \$1,274.49.

CSARA Repeater Comes Home de KFØWF Frank McNally

On Saturday, June 9, the Colorado Springs Amateur Radio Association (CSARA) repeater was moved from the Widefield location to a new site on the east side of Colorado Springs. The CSARA repeater operates on both the VHF band at 146.625(-) MHz and the UHF band at 447.025(-) MHz. It was established in August of 1992 and has served the amateur community as a local repeater ever since. The repeater uses two Vertex (Yaesu) transceivers, one dedicated to the VHF side and the other dedicated to the UHF side attached to an SCOM controller. Access to either frequency band will activate both of the repeaters and retransmit the audio on both bands simultaneously. The new site includes two new Diamond X-510 dual band antennas and new Times Microwave LMR600 series feedlines placed on a communications tower at approximately 42 feet above the ground level. The site location effort took 14 association members approximately 7 hours to complete. The repeater transmitters put out 25 watts of power on both bands and provide local coverage in an approximate 20 mile radius (depending on terrain). Initial reports indicate the new site has improved the range and provides better access to the repeater.

In the past, the repeater was hampered by the low elevation of the Widefield location when compared to mean elevation of the surrounding regions. This location restricted repeater access from northern Colorado Springs positions and often limited HT communications. The Widefield location was also subject to multipath effects that could be noticed during mobile communications.

Since the move, access to the repeater using an HT has greatly improved from both the south end and north end of the city. The eastern location also improves repeater access from the eastern plains and the Black Forest areas. The CSARA repeater hosts a voice mail system that allows its users to randomly broadcast news announcements focused on amateur events. [Ed: The CSARA has been very gracious in making announcements for various PPRAA events, such as our hamfest.] This service is activated each day at 6 AM and is terminated each evening at 8 PM. In addition to the voice mail service, the repeater also has a paging function that may be used to page association members using both a voice announcement and DTMF tones. The repeater is an open system dedicated to all amateurs and welcomes users to enjoy its capabilities. You may enter 6245 on your DTMF keypad for additional on-line repeater information. Please stop by and say "Hi!"

VE CW Sessions Changing de N7LV Rob Roller

July 1 is the effective date for the new Morse code exam standards. The testing standard for CW exams this month will be 5 wpm, with 5 wpm word spacing and 13-15 wpm character spacing, aka Farnsworth method. The audio tone frequency for ARRL VEC is 750 Hz. If you want 5 wpm character spacing, the ARRL is making that available upon special request only. You pass if you can answer either 7 or better of 10 fill-in-the-blank questions, or if you get 25 consecutive characters correct. Both the PPRAA and the MARC teams are ARRL VE teams, so you can expect these standards to be in effect this month. Contact our VE team representative Erik Mugele KGØXE if you have questions.

Broadband Wireless Assistance de N7LV Rob Roller

I was contacted via telephone by a gentleman named Steve (didn't get the last name). He said he's doing some work at some microwave frequencies relating to broadband wireless, and wanted to call upon any expertise we had on this subject. I didn't take real good notes, but if anyone is interested in following up on this, you can contact Steve via e-mail at gowork@hotmail.com, or call his pager at 443-0649. If you e-mail him, put "broadband wireless" in the subject line.

Pikes Peak Region Ham Event Calendar

July / August 2001 – Please see Page 2 for Points of Contact						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 MARC VE Testing
8 PSE Summer Roundup	9	10	11 PPRAA Mtg	12	13 Lunch Bunch	14 PSE MS-150
15 PSE MS-150 PSE Barr Trail Run	16 Board Mtg	17	18 MARC Mtg	19 RACES Mtg/Tmg	20	21
22	23 ZB Deadline	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 PPRAA Mtg	9	10 Lunch Bunch	11 VE Testing
12 PSE Race for the Cure	13 Board Mtg	14	15 MARC Mtg	16 RACES Mtg	17	18 PSE Pikes Pk Ascent
19 PSE Pikes Pk Marathon	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 ZB Deadline	28	29	30	31	

PSE = Public Service Event - Contact Mike Stansberry KØTER for details

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521			
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?
Name: _____			Field Day <input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____			Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/>
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/>
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____			Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/>
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____			Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:			Full Member * <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Family Membership * <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Over 65 * <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Over 65 Family * <input type="checkbox"/>
			Associate * <input type="checkbox"/>
			Ø-Beat Only * <input type="checkbox"/>
			ARRL Dues Incl'd \$34: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Donation to Club: _____
Total Enclosed: _____			
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"			
Would you like to receive Ø-Beat electronically via e-mail in PDF format <u>instead</u> of a printed copy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Circle your interests ⇒ HF / V/UHF / FM / SSB / Digital / DX / Contests / Technical / Hardware / Other _____			
Renew your ARRL membership through the PPRAA! Send your ARRL renewal form and your check for the amount due to the ARRL to the PPRAA. Make the check payable to the PPRAA. The PPRAA will forward your renewal form to the ARRL. The PPRAA keeps \$2 as a donation or commission, and pays the difference to the ARRL.			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!			

* Due to a transitional period in the dues structure, see Treasurer's column for current amount if you're renewing !!
 (If you don't want to cut up your Ø-Beat you can get an app off of the club's web site.)

RadioActivities!

Lunch Bunch



The next **Lunch Bunch** is Jul 13 at Home Town Buffet (Austin Bluffs & N Academy), 1130-1300. (*Always the Friday following the club meeting.*) We need a volunteer to continue coordinating this lunch !!

Hamfest Horizon

- **Jul 13-15:** ARRL Rocky Mtn Div Convention, Ruby's Inn, Bryce, UT. Special guest speaker FCC's Riley Hollingsworth. www.utahhamfest.org
- **Jul 14:** Northern Colorado ARC hamfest, Loveland. Contact Rod Cerkoney NØRC, 970-225-0117, or e-mail to n0rc@arrl.net. www.qsl.net/n0rc/hamfest
- **Aug 19: CANCELLED** Denver Radio Club hamfest, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds. Contact Ron Taylor KØHRT, 303-989-3978. k0hrt@arrl.net www.qsl.net/w0tx

Dits & Bits

- **Wanted:** Trying to help a new ham (KCØJNH) find an inexpensive 2m HT. If you have one to sell for around \$100, pls call. Mike WV7T, 634-7168.
- **For Sale:** I am the original owner of the IC-706MKII and asking \$800 for the rig. I am able to set up the radio for demonstration here at my home. Mike WV7T. 634-7168
- **For Sale:** Used Mosley TA-36 Classic (6-el tribander, full legal power) antenna. Documentation included. I'll deliver within COS Roger WØZMU, 260-8059, 5-9 PM only.

Jess Miley KØTAA, 719-784-3040
719 W 7th, Florence, CO 81226

Amateur & Hobby Radio Products
HF to GHz, large stock
30 day money back guarantee
on used equipment.
Excellent tech @25 per hour
Hours 9-5 Tues-Fri, 9-1 Sat.
Closed Sun & Mon

After hours available by phone contact.

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA

First Class Mail

To: